

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIMS

1. A method of notification for a system, comprising the steps of:
configuring usage rate profile data in a database;
monitoring a parameter of the system;
comparing said parameter with said usage rate profile data; and
5 generating an alert condition if said parameter deviates from said usage rate
profile data.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said usage rate profile data comprises
consumption rates for system consumable materials.
3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said usage rate profile data comprises
wear rate data for system components.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said monitoring step comprises
repetitively reading said parameter to determine an actual rate of usage.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said parameter is a consumable
material level indicator.
6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said parameter is a component wear
indicator.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said rate profile data is organized by users.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said rate profile data is organized by accounts.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said usage rate profile data comprises budget expenditure rate data.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said budget rate expenditure data is organized by budget users.

11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said budget expenditure data is organized by budget account.

12. The method of Claim 1 wherein said usage rate profile data is organized by time.

13. The method of Claim 1 wherein said usage rate profile data is organized by time of day.

14. The method of Claim 1 wherein said usage profile data is organized by day.

15. The method of Claim 1 wherein said usage profile data is organized by calendar events.

16. The method of Claim 1 wherein said configuring step further comprises the steps of:

periodically performing said monitoring step;
determining a trend of parameter values over time; and
5 saving said trend of data values in said usage rate profile data.

17. The method of Claim 16 wherein said parameter is compared with said trend of data values.

18. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the steps of:
receiving reserve level data of a system resource corresponding to said parameter and
calculating a depletion factor with respect to said trend of parameters values
5 and said reserve level data.

19. The method of Claim 18 wherein said generating step further comprises the step of outputting said depletion factor.

20. The method of Claim 18 further comprising the step of allocating said system resource according to a usage priority factor.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said usage priority factor is based on user identity.

22. The method of Claim 20 wherein said usage priority factor is based on account identity.

23. A method of Claim 16 wherein said alert condition includes an indication of said depletion factor.

24 The method of Claim 23 further comprising the step of automatically ordering replenishments for said system resource in response to said alert condition.

25. The method of Claim 1 wherein said alert condition includes an alert indicator.

26. The method of Claim 1 wherein said generating step further comprises the step of communicating said alert condition via telecommunications.

27. The method of Claim 1 wherein said generating step further comprises the step of disabling the system.

28. An apparatus for providing notification for a system, comprising:
means for configuring usage rate profile data in a database;
means for monitoring a parameter of the system;
means for comparing said parameter with said usage rate profile data; and
5 means for generating an alert condition if said parameter deviates from said usage rate profile data.

29. The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said usage rate profile data comprises consumption rates for system consumable materials.

30. The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said usage rate profile data comprises wear rate data for system components.

31. The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said parameter is a consumable material level indicator.

32 The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said parameter is a component wear indicator.

33. The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said usage rate profile data comprises budget expenditure rate data.

34. The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said usage rate profile data is organized by time.

35. The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein said means for configuring further comprises:

means for periodically monitoring said parameter;

means for determining a trend of parameter values over time; and

5 means for saving said trend of data values in said usage rate profile data.

36. The apparatus of Claim 35 wherein said parameter is compared with said trend of data values.

37. The apparatus of Claim 35 further comprising:

means for receiving reserve level data of a system resource corresponding to said parameter and

5 means for calculating a depletion factor with respect to said trend of parameters values and said reserve level data.

38. The apparatus of Claim 37 further comprising a means for allocating said system resource according to a usage priority factor.

39 The apparatus of Claim 37 further comprising a means for automatically ordering replenishments for said system resource in response to said alert condition.

40. The apparatus of Claim 28 further comprising a means for disabling the system.